catharsis

By: Ahniki

ZZZZ

OH. IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE.

I EXPECTED YOU TO SLEEP A LOT MORE AFTER YOUR PATCH UP. NOT TO MENTION, YOU'VE BEEN UP ALL NIGHT.

...STILL A LITTLE SPEECHLESS? YOU'LL CATCH FLIES WITH YOUR MOUTH OPEN LIKE THAT YOU KNOW.

I'M IRIS, THE ONE THAT'S BEEN TAKING CARE OF YOU SINCE YOU GOT HERE.

ALTHOUGH IT MAY NOT SEEM LIKE IT, YOU'RE STILL AT OUR HOSPITAL. WE'RE JUST IN THE REMH ROOM, WHERE ALL OUR PATIENTS END UP AFTER GETTING FIXED UP.

REM?

LIKE SLEEP?

Rehabilitating Emotion and Mental Health: the REMH room.

Combined with modern technology, we have utilized veils to help with the recovery of our patients after a defaeco.

A veil? You could do this with it too?

Yes.
I've been informed that you've been told a little bit of information, but I'm here to go into more detail.

That way we make our time together a little more productive as you rest up.

A veil is a connection to one's psyche. Its basic purpose is for the ritual we refer to as Defaeco: the purging of a timorem.

VEILS CAN CONNECT THE PHYSICAL WORLD WITH THE WORLD OF OUR INNERSELVES.

DEPENDING ON WHO IT'S CASTING THROUGH, YOU CAN HAVE ADDITIONAL PEOPLE BESIDES THE HOST THAT ENTERS THAT WORLD.

It also works as sort of a filter.

In order to keep the Defaeco under control, veils act as a contained area where whatever is in focus, stays in focus without the threat of external danger

PROCESSING--
DO YOU NEED A NOTEPAD? I'M GOING MORE INTO DETAIL NOW.

NO. I'M FINE.
NO... YOU'RE NOT.
THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE SAYS IT ALL.
YOU RETAIN A LOT MORE INFORMATION WRITING IT DOWN.
THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD.

AH.. DAMN. JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I AVOIDED STUDYING.

YES, MA'AM.

A VEIL IS THE BATTLEFIELD LAID OUT FOR US TO ENCOUNTER THE TIMOREM AND VICE VERSA.

Like how you would have a chessboard for the pieces, there would be no game without its playing field.

Entering such area gives us the ability to help settle the turmoil from our hostia.

Out of the three cases that you ran into the Timorem, two of them were set up by Catharsis while your most recent one was set up by the Timorem itself.

Like I said about the filter, the Timorem

HAD SET IT UP IN SUCH A WAY THAT OUR AGENTS COULD NOT PINPOINT OR ENTER THE VEIL TO HELP YOU OR THAT YOUNG BOY.

IN THAT CASE, CATHARSIS AGENTS WERE THE EXTERNAL DANGER BEING FILTERED OUT.

LUCKILY FOR YOU, THAT BOY YOU WERE WITH ENDED UP SAVING THE BOTH OF YOU--WHICH IS EXTREMELY RARE

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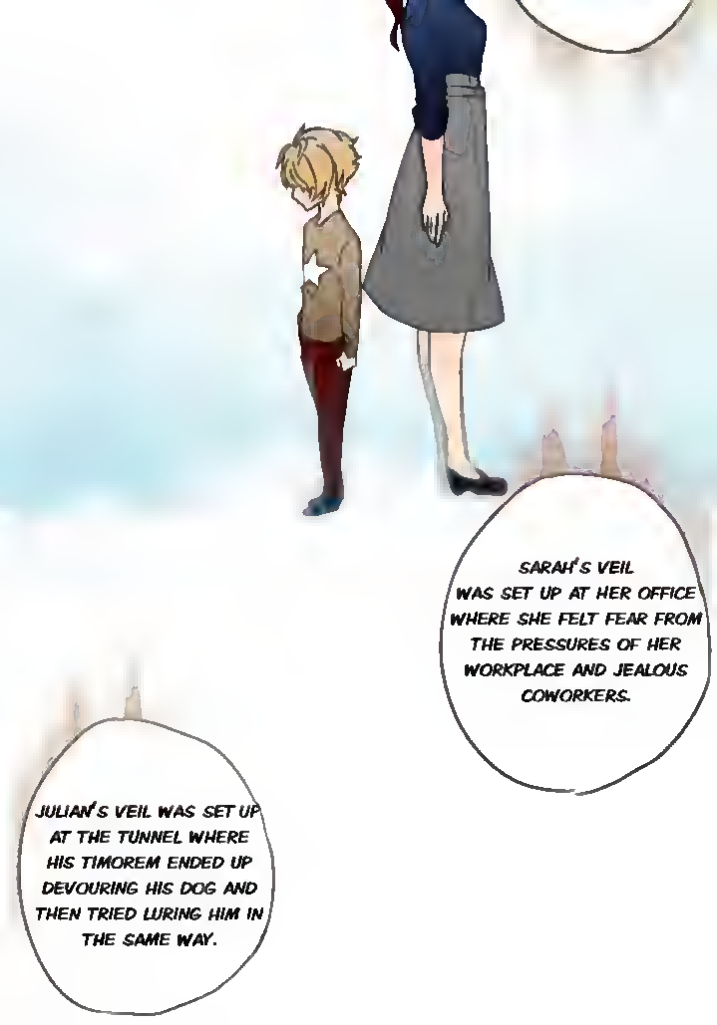
CONSIDERING HIS AGE.

THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE VEIL VARIES BETWEEN PEOPLE AND THEIR STATE OF BEING.

IN SARAH LIU'S AND JULIAN'S CASE, THE VEILS EMULATED THEIR EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL DISTRESS-- THE MAIN OBJECTIVE THAT WE AIM TO CLEAR AS WE ARE HIRED.


SARAH'S VEIL WAS SET UP AT HER OFFICE WHERE SHE FELT FEAR FROM THE PRESSURES OF HER WORKPLACE AND JEALOUS COWORKERS.
JULIAN'S VEIL WAS SET UP AT THE TUNNEL WHERE HIS TIMOREM ENDED UP DEVOURING HIS DOG AND THEN TRIED LURING HIM IN THE SAME WAY.

OTHER TIMES, VEILS CAN BE USED DEPENDING ON THE CIRCUMSTANCE SUCH AS INTERROGATION OR, AS YOU'RE EXPERIENCING RIGHT NOW, RECOVERY.
IT ALL DEPENDS ON THE MENTAL STRENGTH OF THE ONE THAT IT IS SET UP THROUGH.

The special thing about the REMH room is that it channels only positive energy to those inside. This aids with recovering their mental states after a nightmarish battle against someone's overpowering fears.

Mental strength is key to this line of work and Catharsis makes it a point to nurture and develop this ability.

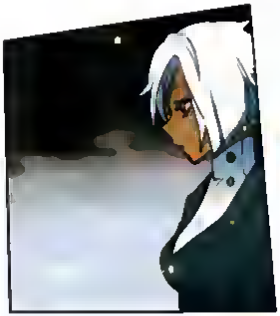
Then will that be something that I'll be taught as well?
Since Harvey said that I'll be a part of this line of work...

Yes. In order to keep yourself healthy, you will need to build up your mental strength and better your way of thinking.

THINGS START TO GO HAYWIRE WHEN YOU LOSE YOUR COMPOSURE AND COULD POTENTIALLY END UP HURTING YOU MORE.

...SO...

...LIKE THE DAMAGE I SUFFERED.



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I'M SURPRISED YOU'VE BEEN SO COMPLIANT CONSIDERING WE DRAGGED YOU ALONG THIS WHOLE WAY.

IS THERE A REASON WHY?

WELL.. IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE A CHOICE.

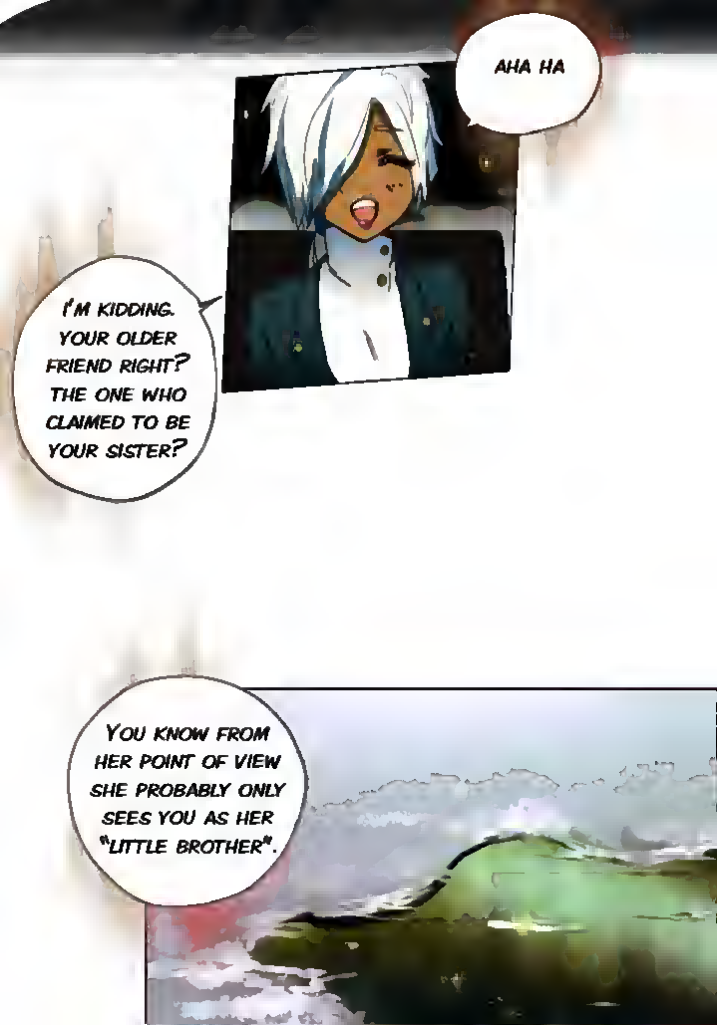
TRUE... BUT IF YOU WERE REALLY AGAINST IT. YOU WOULD HAVE LEAST COMPLAINED A LITTLE OUT OF YOUR OWN CONCERN.
YOUR ATTITUDE TELLS ME THAT THERE'S MORE TO IT. WHAT IS IT?

-A
-AMI-?

AMI?

NODS

YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
N-NO! SHE'S JUST SOMEONE REALLY IMPORTANT TO ME THAT I WANT TO PROTECT FROM THESE THINGS.

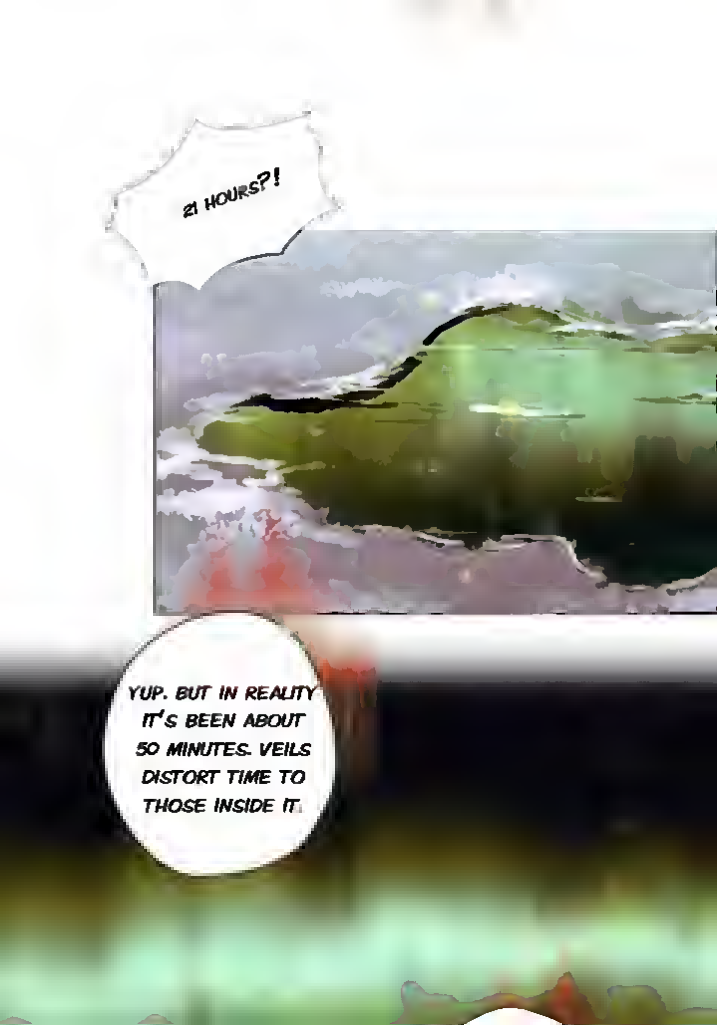

AHA HA
I'M KIDDING. YOUR OLDER FRIEND RIGHT? THE ONE WHO CLAIMED TO BE YOUR SISTER?
YOU KNOW FROM HER POINT OF VIEW SHE PROBABLY ONLY SEES YOU AS HER "LITTLE BROTHER".

I NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT LIKING HER LIKE THAT THOUGH...

I'M TEASING. WELL, THAT'S A MUCH BETTER REASON TO HAVE THAN SIMPLY "HAVING NO CHOICE".

WELL IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE GOTTEN QUITE THE ENERGY BACK. YOUR RECOVERY IN THE REMH ROOM IS GOING RATHER WELL. SINCE YOU'VE BEEN UP, IT LOOKS LIKE THE TIME WE HAVE TOGETHER IS ALMOST UP.

YOU'VE BEEN IN HERE FOR ABOUT 21 HOURS NOW. IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE YOU NEED ANYMORE TIME THAN THAT.


21 HOURS?!
YUP. BUT IN REALITY IT'S BEEN ABOUT 50 MINUTES. VEILS DISTORT TIME TO THOSE INSIDE IT.

It has it's pros and cons. On one hand, we can sit in here and talk for hours as you recouperate.
On the other, time could drag out for hours and possibly even days and weeks depending on your situation.
I'm sure that the marathon that you put your body through in Julian's veil can attest to that.
So as for now, our little crash course into Catharsis is over. You have someone waiting to take
BEEP
BEEP

YOU TOWARDS YOUR ACTUAL TRAINING ON THE OTHER SIDE RIGHT NOW.

OH!

AND BEFORE I FORGET. YOU'LL FEEL THE STRAIN YOU PUT ON YOUR BODY FROM THE NIGHT YOU HAD. I SUGGEST THAT YOU STRETCH BEFORE ANYTHING.

BEFORE WHAT?
CRACK
CRACK

UUUGGGHHHHHH
S...SO SORE...
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU EXERT YOURSELF IF YOU DON'T EXERCISE

DON'T PUSH HIM TOO FAR NOW. OK, PARIS?
—
NOT MY CALL.

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